

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims which, apart from the issues discussed and addressed in this amendment, were indicated as allowable.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to for having language that made it optional, but did not require the limitation “does not forward multicast traffic”, and “forwards multicast traffic”. The language of claim 1 has been amended here to positively recite that the server is connected to a router which does not forward multicast traffic, and the router is connected to switches where each switch is to forward multicast traffic. Applicants, however, observe that although the language has been made more definite, it is not intended to narrow the affected limitations. For instance, the method claim as amended here should cover use of a router that is operating in a mode in which it does not forward multicast traffic, and is connected to a switch that is operating in a mode that forwards multicast traffic. Those routers and switches could have other modes of operation not covered by claim 1. This amendment to claim 1 should thus not effect the intended scope of the original claim language.

With respect to claim 1, further language that was objected to has been clarified, in particular, regarding the “set of subnets”.

The objections to the “set of subnets” also extends to claim 6. Applicants have also amended claim 6 to clarify references to a subnet amongst the set of subnets, without intending to alter the scope of the claims.

The objections to claims 10 and 11 have also been addressed, by taking the Examiner’s suggestions. Claim 11 has also been amended by removing the unclear phrase “each of” in line 6, again without intending to alter the scope of the claims.

The objections to claims 28 and 29 regarding the receiving operation has been noted, and the Examiner’s suggestion has been taken in both of those instances. These

claims have also been amended to clarify the relationship between the machine-readable medium and the additional instructions that allow the machine to perform the recited operations, again without intending to change the scope of the claims. A final recommendation by the Examiner regarding claim 29 and the “transmitting the set of data” has also been taken.

Claim 30 has also been grammatically corrected in two instances, again without intending to alter the scope of the claim.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, particularly with respect to the phrase “the plurality of subnets”. This point has been addressed in the amendment to claim 1 in which it is clarified how the set of subnets are discovered, namely, *from amongst all of the subnets that are connected to the plurality of switches*.

The other rejection concerns claim 6, and in particular the limitation “the sender’s” in line 9. In response, Applicants have amended claim 6 to clearly indicate that the “sender” is the “first subnet representative”.

It should be noted that any remaining claim amendments not specifically mentioned above have been made to clarify the claims without intending to alter their scope. For instance, in claim 8, an apparent antecedent basis deficiency regarding “the domain representative” has been corrected. Also, the grammar used in claims 13, 14, and 23 has also been changed to reflect greater clarity. Similar corrections regarding grammar have been made to improve the readability of claims 25 and 26.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance referring to claims 1, 3-14, and 21-30, as amended here, is therefore respectfully requested to issue at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-

2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted online via EFS Web to the Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on September 28, 2006.


Margaux Rodriguez September 28, 2006